

Listing of Claims:

The claims have not been amended by this Reply. Nevertheless, a listing of the pending claims is provided below for reference:

1. (Previously presented) A method for enabling management of contacts, the method comprising:
 - maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;
 - enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;
 - in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member;
 - representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier; and
 - enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the member to send a copy of the group of contacts to a recipient.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - receiving a request from the member or the recipient to modify the group; and
 - updating copies of the group held by the member and the recipient to reflect the requested change.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising notifying the member and the recipient of the requested change to the group.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple different applications include multiple different communications applications.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the multiple different communications applications include an e-mail application and at least one application other than an e-mail application.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the multiple different communications applications include an instant messaging application and at least one application other than an instant messaging application.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the multiple different communications applications include a digital image sharing application and at least one application other than a digital image sharing application.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the multiple different communications applications include an alerting application that sends alerts and reminders to users and at least one application other than an alerting application that sends alerts and reminders to users.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the multiple different communications applications include an application for sharing and exchanging contact information and at least one application other than an application for sharing and exchanging contact information.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple different applications include other sharing applications.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the other sharing applications include an electronic journal application and at least one application other than an electronic journal application.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the other sharing applications include an e-mail filtering application and at least one application other than an e-mail filtering application.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the other sharing applications include an application that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account and at least one application other than an application that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the contacts is listed in the collection of contacts and in the group of contacts by a single identifier.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the single identifier is an e-mail address.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the single identifier is a screen name.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the single identifier is a cellular phone number.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises:

receiving an indication of a selected application to use to send a communication to the group of contacts;

recognizing that a contact within the group of contacts is identified by a single identifier that is inoperable for addressing a message to be sent using the selected application;

prompting the member for a different single identifier for the contact that may be used to address the message to be sent using the selected application; and

replacing the single identifier with the different single identifier in the group of contacts.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises:

receiving an indication of a selected application to use to send a communication to the group of contacts;

recognizing that a contact within the group of contacts is identified by a single identifier that is inoperable for addressing a message to be sent using the selected application; and

omitting the contact from the group for the purpose of sending communications using the selected application.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts comprises:

enabling the member to use a graphical user interface to specify contacts from the collection of contacts to be included in the group of contacts; and

enabling the member to name the group of contacts.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling a member to define a group contacts from among the collection of contacts comprises:

recognizing a set of contacts from the collection of contacts as repeated recipients of communications sent by the member; and

enabling the member to define a group containing the set of contacts without actively specifying the set of contacts.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

storing communications sent by the member during a period of time;

examining the communications sent by the member during the period of time; and

identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications by the member during the period of time.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein storing and examining communications sent by the member during a period of time comprises storing and examining communications sent by the member using multiple different applications.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein recognizing a set of contacts from the collection as repeated recipients of communications sent by a member comprises:

storing a predetermined number of communications sent by the member;

examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member; and

identifying a set of contacts that was sent at least a minimum number of communications out of the predetermined number of communications by the member.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein storing and examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member comprises storing and examining communications sent by the user using multiple different applications.

27. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein enabling the member to define a group containing the set of contacts comprises enabling the member to name the recognized set of contacts.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein permissions and preferences of all contacts in the group are the same.

29. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising a tangible computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

- maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;
- enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;
- in response to the member defining a group of contacts, creating the group of contacts defined by the member;
- representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier; and
- enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts.

30. (Previously presented) A system for enabling management of contacts comprising:

- means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository;
- means for enabling a member to define a group of contacts from among the collection of contacts;

means for creating a group of contacts defined by the member in response to the member defining the group of contacts;

means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier; and

means for enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein:

representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

enabling another member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of the multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts;

receiving, from the member, a first communication sent using a first application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented;

in response to receiving the first communication sent using the first application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented, delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the first application;

receiving, from the other member, a second communication sent using a second application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented; and
in response to receiving the second communication sent using the second application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented, delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the second application.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the first application and the second application are different types of communication applications such that:

receiving, from the member, a first communication sent using a first application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented comprises receiving a first communication sent using a first communication application;

delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the first application comprising delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the first communication application;

receiving, from the other member, a second communication sent using a second application and addressed to the specific identifier by which the group is represented comprises receiving a second communication sent using a second communication application that is a different type of communication application than the first communication application; and

delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the second application comprises delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the second communication application that is of a different type than the first communication application.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the first communication application comprises an e-mail application and the second communication application comprises an instant messaging application such that:

receiving a first communication sent using a first communication application comprises receiving a first communication sent using the e-mail application;

delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the first communication application comprises delivering the first communication to the group of contacts using the e-mail application;

receiving a second communication sent using a second communication application that is a different type of communication application than the first communication application comprises receiving a second communication sent using an instant messaging application; and

delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the second communication application that is of a different type than the first communication application comprises delivering the second communication to the group of contacts using the instant messaging application.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein:

the instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

the instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the instructions that when executed by a machine result in maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprise instructions that when executed by a machine result in creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.

38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein:

the means for representing the group of contacts with a specific identifier comprises means for representing the group of contacts with a unique identifier; and

the means for enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the specific identifier by which the group is represented to address communications that are to be sent to the group of contacts comprises means for enabling the member to send communications to the group of contacts using any one of multiple different applications by using the unique identifier by which the group is represented.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 wherein the means for maintaining a collection of contacts in a central repository comprises means for creating a collection of contacts to be stored in the central repository.